

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claim 2 (Currently Amended)

A ring bearing, comprising:
an upper casing;
a lower casing; and
a plastic ring engaged between the upper and lower casings, thereby forming said ring bearing;
said upper and lower casings respectively defining upper and lower annular facing surfaces for engaging said plastic ring therebetween;
said upper and lower facing surfaces each having radially inner and outer portions;
said upper and lower facing surfaces each being substantially curved in a direction between said inner and outer portions thereof;
said plastic ring having upper and lower spacing portions, each being centrally located between said inner and outer portions of said upper and lower facing surfaces, thereby defining respective spaces oriented longitudinally of said ring between said plastic ring and said upper and lower facing surfaces which reduce contact friction with the respective facing surfaces; and
~~The ring bearing of claim 1, further comprising~~ additional grooves or recesses in the upper and/or lower surfaces of the plastic ring which further reduce contact friction with the respective facing surfaces of the upper and lower casings.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended)

The ring bearing of claim 2 \pm , wherein said respective facing surfaces of said ring have at least in part a smaller radius of curvature than said facing surfaces of said casings.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended)

The ring bearing of claim 2 \pm , wherein said respective facing surfaces of said ring have at least in part the same radius of curvature as said facing surfaces of said casings.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended)

The ring bearing of claim 2 \pm , wherein said respective facing surfaces of said casings and said ring are engaged primarily at said inner and outer portions thereof.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended)

The ring bearing of claim 2 \pm , wherein said spacing portion is defined by a flattened portion of said ring facing the corresponding said upper or lower facing surface.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended)

The ring bearing of claim 2 \pm , wherein said spacing portion is defined by a groove formed in said ring facing the corresponding said upper or lower facing surface.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented)

The ring bearing of claim 7, wherein one of said upper and lower facing surfaces has a respective projection which projects into the corresponding groove formed in the ring.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended)

The ring bearing of claim 2 \pm , wherein said spacing portion is defined by a recess formed in said ring facing the corresponding said upper or lower facing surface.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended)

A MacPherson strut having an upper spring seat, a spring, a strut tube, and a ring bearing disposed for engaging the spring seat, the spring and the strut tube; wherein the ring bearing comprises the ring bearing of claim 2 \pm .

Claim 11 (Previously Presented)

The MacPherson strut of claim 10, further comprising additional grooves or recesses in the upper and/or lower surfaces of the plastic ring which further reduce contact friction with the respective facing surfaces of the upper and lower casings.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented)

The MacPherson strut of claim 10, wherein said respective facing surfaces of said ring have at least in part a smaller radius of curvature than said facing surfaces of said casings.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented)

The MacPherson strut of claim 10, wherein said respective facing surfaces of said ring have at least in part the same radius of curvature as said facing surfaces of said casings.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented)

The MacPherson strut of claim 10, wherein said respective facing surfaces of said casings and said ring are engaged primarily at said inner and outer portions thereof.

Claims 15-23 (Canceled)

Claim 24 (Previously Presented)

A ring bearing, comprising:
an upper casing;
a lower casing; and
a plastic ring engaged between the upper and lower casings, thereby forming said ring bearing;
said upper and lower casings respectively defining upper and lower annular facing surfaces for engaging said plastic ring therebetween;
said upper and lower facing surfaces each having radially inner and outer portions;

wherein said inner and outer portions of each of said upper and lower facing surfaces have respective flat portions which together define a general V-shape when seen in cross-section, and said plastic ring has a corresponding cross-sectional V-shape.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented)

The ring bearing of claim 24, said plastic ring having upper and lower spacing portions, each being centrally located between said inner and outer portions of said upper and lower facing surfaces, thereby defining respective spaces oriented longitudinally of said ring between said plastic ring and said upper and lower facing surfaces which reduce contact friction with the respective facing surfaces.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented)

The ring bearing of claim 25, further comprising upper and lower spacing portions formed in said upper and lower facing surfaces, opposite said corresponding portions formed in said ring.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented)

The ring bearing of claim 24, wherein said upper and lower facing surfaces have respective upper and lower spacing portions, each being centrally located between said inner and outer portions of said upper and lower facing surfaces, thereby defining respective spaces oriented longitudinally of said ring between said plastic ring and said upper and lower facing surfaces which reduce contact friction with the respective facing surfaces.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented)

A MacPherson strut having an upper spring seat, a spring, a strut tube, and a ring bearing disposed for engaging the spring seat, the spring and the strut tube; wherein the ring bearing comprises the ring bearing of claim 24.